

'Help Me ... Help Me ... Somebody Help ...'

Georgetown Socialite Slain

Mrs. Mary Pinchot Meyer, 43, a well-known Georgetown artist and close friend of the John F. Kennedys, was shot to death in broad daylight yesterday as she strolled on the C&O Canal towpath near her home.

Two witnesses who heard her screams and two shots led police to Mrs. Meyer's body. It was lying a few feet from the muddy canal.

Within an hour after the slaying Raymond Crump Jr., 25, of 1908 Stanton Terrace se, was arrested and charged with homicide. He was identified in a police lineup of one of the two witnesses.

OUTING

Mrs. Meyer, dressed in tennis shoes and slacks, blouse and jacket, was walking along the towpath at 12:45 p. m. in the 4400 block of Canal Road.

She was alone.

At that moment, Henry Wiggins and Bill Branch, employees of the Key Bridge Esso Station, stopped the station's truck on Canal Road to service a stalled car.

"We just had gotten to the car and tried to start it," Mr. Wiggins said.

"Then we heard the screaming.

"It sounded like a fight or something. There was this howling like someone was being hurt."

Mr. Branch said he heard a woman say: "Help me. Help me. Somebody help me.

"It was very weak like she was weak."



Police officials gather around Mrs. Myer's body.

—News Photo by Lou Hollis

RAN

Mr. Wiggins ran across Canal Road toward the screams.

"Then I heard a shot. There was another shot just as I crossed the road. The screaming stopped.

"There was a man standing over this girl lying on the towpath. He sort of shoved something into his jacket pocket. It appeared to be a pistol.

"He had on a dark cap, a white jacket, dark trousers and shoes. Then he glanced up at me just as he turned to go down the hill. He wasn't running. He didn't say anything and I didn't either."

BACK

Mr. Wiggins raced back to the tow truck and drove to the Esso Station where he called police. Seventh Precinct Pvt.

James Scouloukas, 31, arrived in seconds.

WAITED

Mr. Branch waited at the scene. "I went back across the street to the stalled car and waited for police. I was scared to move. I just sat there until the cops came."

When Mr. Wiggins told Pvt. Scouloukas what happened, he radioed for help.

Continued

Scout cars and cruisers converged on the area. More than 50 men, aided by dogs, scoured the area.

Within an hour police found Crump. He was walking along the edge of the Potomac River in water up to his waist. It was about 100 yards from where the body was found.

He told police he had gotten wet trying to retrieve his fishing pole. He said he had been



MRS. MYER

fishing and denied any part in the shooting.

"I was down there fishing and lost my rod. I don't know what happened, he said. 'I almost got shot myself.'"

Crump was taken to a police lineup where Mr. Wiggins identified him from a group of six men.

"I'm pretty sure that's the man," Mr. Wiggins said. He looked exactly like him. Only thing missing was the jacket."

A white jacket, described by Mr. Wiggins, was found later near the scene of the slaying. The jacket was identified as belonging to Crump by members of Crump's family.

LABORER

Police said Crump, father of five children, is a laborer who was recently released from a 60-day prison sentence for petty larceny, his only conviction. His employers, a paving contractor at Southeast Hospital, said Crump did not appear for work yesterday.

Mrs. Meyer was shot twice, once in the left temple and once in the back. Deputy Coroner Linwood L. Rayford Jr., who made the examination, said either shot could have killed her.

He said the body had been bruised, indicating a possible struggle. Marks on the body

also indicated she may have been dragged a short distance.

The fact that no purse was found near Mrs. Meyer's body led police to the theory that robbery was probably the motive. The only indication of her identity was a glove marked with the name "Meyer." She was wearing both gloves.

SEARCH

A search continued this morning for other evidence, including the pistol which was not found yesterday. Police withheld information on the caliber until the search could be completed.

Mrs. Meyer's identity remained a mystery for several hours after the shooting.

After checking all the Meyers in the phone book, police finally traced her to her brother-in-law, Benjamin Bradless, Washington bureau chief for Newsweek Magazine, who identified the body.

Mrs. Meyer, of 1523 34th-st nw, was a close friend of the Kennedys when Mr. Kennedy was a Senator from Massachusetts. They lived near her studio, which was at 3325 N-st nw.

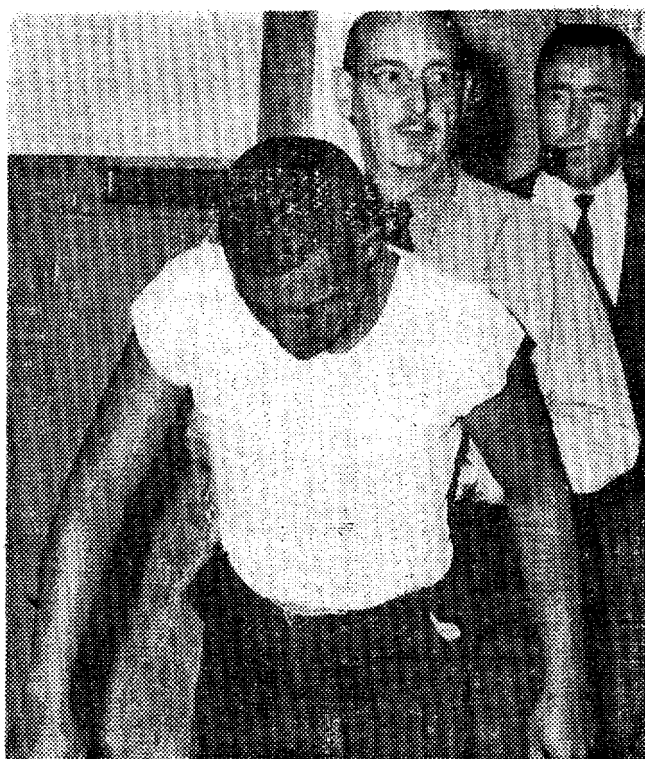
NEW YORK

Mrs. Meyer, a native of New York City, was the niece of Gifford Pinchot, twice governor of Pennsylvania, who was put in charge of the Forest Service by President Theodore Roosevelt.

Her father, Amos Pinchot, Gifford's brother, was a leader of the Bull Moose Party.

Mrs. Meyer was a graduate of Vassar College, where one of her roommates was Mrs. Samuel (Scotty) J. Lanham, candidate for D. C. Democratic Committeewoman in last May's primary.

Mrs. Meyer moved to Washington in 1950 with her former husband, Cord Meyer, Jr., who was one of the founders of the United World Federalists, Inc., and a member of the U. S. dele-



The suspect, Raymond Crump Jr., at police headquarters with Station Clerk James A. Manuel of the Detective Bureau just behind him and Homicide Det. Bernard D. Crooke Jr.

gation to the United Nations Conference in San Francisco.

Mr. Meyer, a marine in the Second World War, was named one of the 10 outstanding men in the United States by the Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1947.

The Meyers, who have been divorced for several years, have two sons, Quentin, 18, a student at Salisbury School, Salisbury, Conn., and Mark, 14, who attends the Milton Academy in Massachusetts. Another son was killed in a traffic accident five years ago.

Besides her sons, she leaves her former husband, her sister, Mrs. Bradlee, her mother, Mrs. Amos Pinchot of New York, and her aunt, Mrs. Gifford Pinchot.

Mrs. Meyer's paintings have been exhibited at the Jefferson Place Gallery here and at the Pan American Union. An exhibit

of hers is now being shown in Latin America.

William Walton, chairman of the Fine Arts Commission, described her as "one of the most beautiful women I have ever known, full of promise." Her work, he said, was "feminine, glowing and lyrical."